

APPROVED: Meeting No. 31-96

ATTEST: *Paula Jewell*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 25-96

June 4, 1996

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Public Hearing in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on June 4, 1996, at 7:31 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember Robert E. Dorsey

Councilmember Robert J. Wright

Councilmember Glennon J. Harrison

ABSENT

Councilmember James T. Marrinan (On Travel)

In attendance: City Manager Rick Kuckkahn, City Clerk Paula Jewell and City Attorney Paul Glasgow.

Re: Public Hearing on the Proposed
FY97 Operating Budget and
FY97-2002 Capital
Improvements Budget.

The Mayor and Council conducted the second of two public hearings on the proposed FY97 Operating Budget and FY97-2002 Capital Improvements Budget. The recommended FY97 Budget was presented to the Mayor and Council on May 13, 1996, and the first public hearing was held on Tuesday, May 28, 1996.

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The Mayor and Council heard all those persons as can be found in the official stenographic transcript. There being no other persons wishing to speak, Mayor Krasnow declared the public hearing closed at 8:11 p.m. and noted that the record on the proposed budget would be left open until close of business on June 17, 1996.

Re: Adjournment to Worksession

The Mayor and Council convened in Worksession at 8:27 p.m. to discuss the City Manager's recommended operating budget for Fiscal Year 1997. Also present were Deputy City Manager Julia Novak, Finance Director Kevin Deckard, and Budget Analyst Susan Fournier. Also in attendance were other members of senior staff.

Mr. Kuckkahn first introduced Jan Zatko, City Manager from the Devinska Nova Ves Township in Bratislava, Slovakia. Mr. Zatko is visiting a number of local cities and towns in the United States.

1. Discussion of Property Tax Rate - The recommended property tax rate is \$.82 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The County needs to know what the City's decided tax rate will be by June 5, 1996. The Mayor and Council agreed that it would important to have some idea as to what the Fiscal Year 1998 tax rate would be. Staff was asked to keep the Mayor and Council abreast of ongoing matters that may impact future tax rates.

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Mr. Deckard pointed out that a new provision in the State law allowing residents to pay their taxes in installments might pose some problems to the City in terms of the timing of cash flows. Mayor and Council expressed some optimism that the Fiscal Year 1997 tax rate of \$.82 should be the rate adopted for the next Fiscal Year as well.

2. Reduction In County Tipping Fee - In the County's adopted FY 1997 budget, the County Council reduced the tipping fee from \$58 to \$44. Mr. Kuckkahn suggested that the City maintain its current rate per household at \$21 per month and invest the savings in equipment associated with changes in the nature of refuse services to be provided. Mayor and Council discussed whether the savings should be invested in refuse equipment or put into the City's reserves. It was agreed that staff should budget for refuse equipment with the savings. Staff was instructed to revisit the proposal for refuse options regarding changes in service, alternatives to the recycling arrangements, and initiation of a composting program (discussed in Worksession on 4/8/96).

3. Mayor and Council Computer Access to City Hall - Mayor and Council expressed a desire to have a connection to the City's wide area network system, once it is on line. Data Processing staff will contact each member of the Mayor and Council and find out what the individual computer needs are.

4. Planning for Park land on the King Farm - Mr. Kuckkahn confirmed that the City is planning \$65,000 for King Farm park land, and staff was on schedule for dedicating the five acre park land site in Fiscal Year 1997. Mr. Hall confirmed that a

feasibility review will take place as part of the Fiscal Year 1998 Master Plan, in order to determine whether the farm buildings can be re-used as recreational facilities. He did note; however, that re-use of these buildings would be costly and would require substantial tax dollars to convert the buildings. The Mayor and Council asked that staff plan a walking tour of the King Farm site and the existing structures. Mayor and Council also asked staff to provide some idea of the costs involved in converting any usable buildings and whether it would be better to wait for the Master Plan study in FY 1998.

5. Funding for Rockville Arts Place - Mayor and Council feel that the City should work with RAP on obtaining other sources of outside funding since they are providing many programs and services for other user groups, e.g., the disabled and youth groups.

6. Community Services - Mr. Kuckkahn said that he budgeted for a Community Services director in the Fiscal Year 1997.

7. Twinbrook Gymnasium - Mayor and Council feel strongly that the higher priority location for a community center is Twinbrook and it should be moved up in the CIP. Mr. Kuckkahn noted that the Recreation and Park Advisory Board recommended the Gude Drive facility. Mr. Kuckkahn will present the Mayor and Council with additional information about the trade-off and the CIP Budget at the June 10th Worksession.

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8. Community Development Administrative Assistant - At the Mayor and Council's request, Mr. Herst explained the duties of an administrative assistant. Mayor and Council expressed concern about whether there would be adequate planning staff with the King Farm coming into development. Mayor and Council would like to see a description of the types of duties that planners and administrative assistants perform.

9. Outside Lobbyist - Mr. Kuckkahn will provide Mayor and Council with an impact analysis and estimated cost involved with hiring an outside lobbyist to oversee the City's needs during the legislative session in Annapolis.

10. Employee Awards - There is some interest in returning to the tradition of honoring employees's service at an annual banquet, or at some different type of party, e.g., a dessert reception. Staff was asked to explore some ideas with staff and find out if staff would be willing to share in some of the costs.

11. Mayor and Council Give-A-Ways - The City Clerk was asked to develop some ideas for a more memorable and substantial gift presentation for special occasions.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the Worksession adjourned at 10:05 p.m., to reconvene in General Session at 7:30 p.m., on June 10, 1996, or at the call of the Mayor.